

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 NEAE-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 CAB-09

COME-00 EB-11 FAA-00 AID-20 IO-12 EUR-25 OMB-01

ACDA-19 RSR-01 /173 W

----- 021806

O R 261440 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3557

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY SANAA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 1226

DEPARTMENT PASS CAIRO

FOR NEA/ ARP FROM AMBASSADOR

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, ETRN, IS, SA

SUBJ: SAUDI ARABIA NOTAM 224

REF: STATE 044577

SUMMARY. DG CIVIL AVIATION CONFIRMS THAT NOTAM 224 NOT RPT
NOT AIMED AT NORTH- SOUTH FLIGHTS (ISRAELI OR OTHER) OVER
INTERNATIONAL WATERS OUTSIDE SAUDI JURISDICTION. NOTAMS
PRIMARILY AIMED AT FLIGHTS FROM GULF OVER RESTRICTED MILITARY
AREAS IN SOUTHERN PART OF SAUDI ARABIA. AMENDED NOTAM HAS
BEEN ISSUED AND WE ASSURED NO CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT WOULD IN
ANY CASE EVER BE FIRED ON; SAUDIS WILL IGNORE FLIGHTS OVER
RED SEA INTERNATIONAL WATERS OUTSIDE DESIGNATED
CORRIDORS. END SUMMARY.

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1. DIRECTOR GENERAL CIVIL AVIATION HAS CONFIRMED TO ME THAT NOTAM 224 OF LAST DECEMBER REPEATED IN MARCH WAS NOT RPT NOT AIMED AT NORTH- SOUTH FLIGHTS OVER INTERNATIONAL WATERS OUTSIDE SAUDI JURISDICTION. WHOLE INTENT WAS TO WARN AIRCRAFT FLYING OVER PROHIBITED AND RESTRICTED MILITARY AREAS OUTSIDE OF NOTIFIED AIR ROUTES IN SOUTHERN PART OF SAUDI ARABIA. NOTAM WAS INITIATED BY MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AFTER NUMEROUS VIOLATIONS BY AIRCRAFT FLYING FROM PERSIAN GULF TO HORN OF AFRICA. THESE AIRCRAFT WERE SUPPOSED TO FLY OVER BISHA ON NOTIFIED AIR TRAFFIC ROUTES TO RED SEA AND THEN SOUTH OVER INTERNATIONAL WATERS. INSTEAD, NUMEROUS AIRCRAFT WERE FLYING DIRECT FROM DHAHRAN OVER RUB AL- KHALI PASSING CLOSE TO PROHIBITED AREAS AT KHAMIS MUSHAYT OR SHURURAH EN ROUTE TO HORN OF AFRICA OR ADEN. WORDING IN NOTAM CONCERNING LIABILITY TO BE FIRED ON WITHOUT WARNING ADOPTED FROM SAUDI ARABIA RAC 5-2 CONCERNING FLIGHTS OVER RESTRICTED MILITARY AREAS. DGCA REITERATED NO RPT NO CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT WOULD EVER BE FIRED ON AND THAT THIS WAS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD BY SAUDI MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OFFICIALS.

2. DGCA HAS ISSUED AS RESULT OF OUR APPROACH A NEW NOTAM AS FOLLOWS: A119/73. (DOMESTIC CIRCULAR NR 082. 26 MARCH.) REF AIP SAUDI ARABIAN RAC 5-2 AND FAL 1-1, 1-2. ANY AIRCRAFT FLYING OVER DANGER, RESTRICTED AND PROHIBITED AREAS WILL BE SUBJECT TO BEING FIRED ON. STOP. AIRCRAFT FLYING OVER SAUDI ARABIAN TERRITORIES WITHOUT PRIOR PERMISSION OR/ AND FLYING OUTSIDE THE PERMITTED CORRIDORS WILL BE INTERCEPTED AND FORCED TO LAND. END NOTAM.

3. I WENT OVER THE AIRCRAFT CORRIDOR SITUATION IN SAUDI ARABIA WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL. HE EXPLAINED CLEARLY THAT HIS NOTAMS DID NOT APPLY TO AREAS OUTSIDE OF SAUDI JURISDICTION. HE WAS QUITE AWARE OF THE NEED FOR EL- AL TO FLY DOWN THE MIDDLE OF THE RED SEA AND NOTED THAT AIR CORRIDORS BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT WERE MONITORED FOR TRAFFIC BY AIR CONTROLLERS WHO WOULD NOT ACKNOWLEDGE EL AL NOTIFICATIONS OR FLIGHT PLANS WHICH ARE COMMONLY BROADCAST BY ISRAELI PILOTS AND HEARD BY ARAB FLIGHT INFORMATION CENTERS AT JIDDA DN ELSEWHERE. CONTROLLERS USE THIS INFORMATION TO MAINTAIN A PROPER DISTANCE FOR OTHER AIRCRAFT FLYING IN EAST- WEST AND NORTH- SOUTH CORRIDORS. NOTAMS PUBLISHED BY
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SAUDI ARABIA REFERS ONLY TO AIRWAYS THAT ARE PUBLISHED AND

RECOGNIZED AND WHICH SERVICE SAUDI ARABIAN TERRITORY. SINCE

THERE ARE NO PUBLISHED AIRWAYS BETWEEN JIDDA AND EILATH,
FOR EXAMPLE, SUCH NOTAMS HE ASSURED ME DO NOT APPLY TO
AIRCRAFT FLYING OVER INTERNATIONAL WATERS. THEREFORE, SO LONG
AS ISRAELI AIRCRAFT DO NOT OVERFLY SAUDI TERRITORY, JIDDA FIR
WILL IGNORE THE FACT THAT THEY ARE OUTSIDE DESIGNATED COR-
RIDORS. FYI ONLY: DGCA EXPRESSED IRRITATION WITH CHOICE OF
WORDING BY HIS OWN EXPERTS IN ORIGINAL NOTAM AND SPECIFICALLY
DENIED THAT IT WAS EVER AIMED AT NORTH- SOUTH FLIGHTS OF
EL AL. END FYI.

4. COMMENT: IT SEEMS APPARENT THAT NERVOUSNESS OF SAUDIS
REGARDING SENSITIVE SOUTHERN BORDER WAS PRIME REASON BOTH
FOR FIRST AND SECOND REPETITION OF NOTAM.
THACHER

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED CAIRO

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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